

the popularity of the Adm'r in that Section, without any corresponding benefit to the Naval Service.

From all that I can learn, Capt. Silas H. Stringham¹⁴⁵ of New York is perhaps better qualified for this position than any officer of his grade in the service. He formerly commanded at Brooklyn, where his administration was very much commended. He is gentleman of fortune, and has property in Brooklyn, where he resides, and would not, in all probability, be pleased with the order. He is a Whig, I am told, but no partizan. To me he is a stranger, it never being my fortune, when an officer of the Navy, to be associated with him.

Warrington Long commanded at Gosport, and managed well, he was rigid and yet kind, just, mild and firm. He is still much esteemed by the men, and if acceptable to him, no better choice could be made. I was under his command for a year, and speak from personal knowledge. Next to him and Stringham, I would name Morris and Shubrick, both of whom I know well.

Perry would answer admirably were it not for a somewhat imperious bearing that makes him unacceptable to the multitude. I never knew him, but when I was in the service he was considered *harsh*, and too rigid. In all other respects he is a fine officer, and in matters strictly military, he is equal to any of his grade.

I have just taken charge of the office which you were pleased to confer on me, and regret that I am compelled to send you such imperfect information. It will afford me great pleasure to assist you in any matter where, from your position, recourse must be had to the suggestions of others.

My predecessor received me very graciously, and, by my request, he continues to use the office and clerks in closing his returns. My appointment meets with little or no opposition in this quarter, and the extracts from the Whig and Democratic papers published here, which I take the liberty of enclosing, will show that, so far at least, your kindness and confidence have not been misplaced.

¹⁴⁵ Silas Horton Stringham (1797-1876), of New York, who entered the navy in 1809. He saw active service in the War of 1812, in Algiers, and in the Mexican War. In 1861 he commanded the blockading fleet, planned the attack on the forts at Hatteras, and carried it to a successful conclusion. He was criticized, and asked for retirement.